

Statement*Additional/new posts sanctioned for the Income Tax Department*

Sl. No.	Existing Post	Pay Scale	No. of Posts
1.	Commissioner of Income Tax	Rs. 18400-500-22400	33
2.	Additional Commissioner of Income Tax	Rs. 14300-400-18300	137
3.	Deputy Commissioner of income Tax	Rs. 10000-325-45200	118
4.	Income Tax Officer	Rs. 6500-200-10500	244
5.	Inspector of Income Tax	Rs. 5500-175-9000	1193
6.	Office Superintendent	Rs. 6000-175-9000	62
7.	Senior Tax Assistant	Rs. 5000-150-8000	248
8.	Tax Assistant	Rs. 4500-125-7000	4014
9.	DPAGr-A	Rs. 5500-175-9000	58
10.	Stenographer Gr.-III	Rs. 4000-100-6000	944

Weather based insurance scheme for farmers

2950. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating for an innovative scheme to protect the marginal farmers from vagaries of climate;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to introduce weather based insurance scheme and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government is already implementing the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) through

the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICL) which covers marginal farmers also. Under the scheme, the small and marginal farmers are provided 10% subsidy on premium. The said scheme provides indemnity against yield losses caused due to non-preventable risks such as natural fire and lightening storm, hailstorm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado, frost, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, pests and diseases etc.

(c) AICL is implementing weather based insurance schemes, particularly, rainfall insurance schemes in various States. Some private insurance companies like ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company and IFFCO-TOKYO General Insurance Company are also implementing the scheme on limited scale.

Agreement of prevention of customs offences

2951. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have inked any agreement envisaging exchange of information and intelligence to prevent customs offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, country-wise; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of the Republic of India has signed bilateral Customs Cooperation Agreement with Government of the Republic of Korea, The Australian Customs Service and Republic of China during the last two years. Apart from this, a multilateral agreement *i.e.* SAARC Agreement on Regional Cooperation in customs matters has also been signed.

(c) The agreements have been signed and the requirements for the entry into force have been completed and notified. The implementation of the agreements will be through appointed contact points.